

Serial No.: 10/716,563
Docket No.: 102-1011
Amendment dated October 25, 2005
Reply to the Office Action of August 10, 2005

REMARKS

Introduction

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7-17, and 19-25 have been amended. Claims 2-6, 8 and 14-20 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-25 are pending in this application.

No new matter has been introduced in this amendment since all amendments are supported by the originally submitted specification, drawings, and claims.

Claim Objections

Claim 11 has been objected to due to informalities. Regarding claim 11, the Examiner states that “the fur” in line 3 has insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 11 has been amended to add “the toner supplying roller comprises fur disposed around an outer circumference thereof.” Accordingly, “the fur” as presently recited in claim 11 has proper antecedent basis.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 7, 9-13, and 21-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Japanese 08-146763 to Takeuchi (hereinafter “Takeuchi”). This rejection is traversed for at least the reasons stated below.

The Examiner alleges that Takeuchi discloses “an image forming apparatus having a photoconductive medium D; a developing roller 6 rotating in contact with the photosensitive medium D; a developing unit frame 1 supporting the developing roller 6 and supporting toner T inside a receptacle; a toner supply roller to supply toner T to the developing roller 6; and a cleaning unit 14 used to remove from the toner supply roller 8 the toner that remains after the toner is transferred from the toner supplying roller 8 to the developing roller 6.”

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “a cleaning unit disposed at a position opposite to the predetermined nip with respect to a rotating axis of the toner supplying roller to remove from

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the toner supplying roller the toner which remains after the toner is transferred from the toner supplying roller to the developing roller.”

It is respectfully submitted that Takeuchi illustrates a cleaning member 14 that removes toner T from a supply roller 8. However, the cleaning member 14 of Takeuchi is disposed to contact the supply roller 8 at a position that is not opposite to a point at which the supply roller contacts a developing roller 6 with respect to a rotating axis of the supply roller 8. Accordingly, Takeuchi fails to disclose, among other things, “a cleaning unit disposed at a surface of the toner supplying roller at a position less than 180 degrees from the predetermined nip in a rotating direction of the toner supplying roller to remove from the toner supplying roller the toner which remains after the toner is transferred from the toner supplying roller to the developing roller,” as presently recited in independent claim 1 of Applicant’s invention. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference.” Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the... claim.” Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ 2d 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). “The elements must be arranged as required by the claim...” In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Accordingly, since Takeuchi does not teach every element as recited in independent claim 1, Takeuchi can not be properly used to reject claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over Takeuchi, and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to recite “cleaning roller to remove the toner from the toner supplying roller.”

It is respectfully submitted that Takeuchi illustrates a cleaning member 14 that removes toner T from a supply roller 8. However, Takeuchi does not teach the use of any type of roller to remove toner from the supply roller 8. Accordingly, Takeuchi fails to disclose, among other things, “a cleaning roller to remove from the toner supplying roller the toner which remains after the toner is transferred from the toner supplying roller to the developing roller,” as presently recited in independent claim 7 of Applicant’s invention. Since Takeuchi does not teach every

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element as recited in independent claim 7, Takeuchi can not be properly used to reject claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. See anticipation requirement *supra*. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 7 is allowable over Takeuchi, and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited. Further, for at least the reason that claims 9-13 and 12-22 depend from allowable claim 7, claims 9-13 and 21-22 are also allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to recite “a toner supplying roller having fur disposed around a circumference thereof to supply the toner contained in the toner receptacle to the developing roller, and a cleaning unit to shake the fur of the toner supplying roller to remove the toner from the toner supplying roller.”

It is respectfully submitted that Takeuchi illustrates a supply roller 8 that supplies toner to a developing roller 6 and a cleaning member 14 to remove toner T from the supply roller 8. However, Takeuchi does not teach the use of fur disposed around the supply roller to transfer the toner. Accordingly, the cleaning member 14 of Takeuchi cannot perform shaking of fur to remove the toner. Therefore, Takeuchi fails to disclose, among other things, “a toner supplying roller having fur disposed around a circumference thereof to supply the toner contained in the toner receptacle to the developing roller, and a cleaning unit to shake the fur of the toner supplying roller to remove the toner from the toner supplying roller,” as presently recited in independent claim 23 of Applicant’s invention. Since Takeuchi does not teach every element as recited in independent claim 23, Takeuchi can not be properly used to reject claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. See anticipation requirement *supra*. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 23 is allowable over Takeuchi, and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to recite “removing residual toner remaining on the toner supplying roller with a cleaning roller after the toner supplying operation.”

It is respectfully submitted that Takeuchi illustrates a cleaning member 14 that removes toner T from a supply roller 8. However, Takeuchi does not teach the use of any type of roller to remove toner from the supply roller 8. Accordingly, the cleaning member 14 illustrated in Takeuchi cannot perform “removing residual toner remaining on the toner supplying roller with a cleaning roller after the toner supplying operation,” as presently recited in independent claim 24

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of Applicant's invention. Since Takeuchi does not teach every element as recited in independent claim 24, Takeuchi can not be properly used to reject claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. See anticipation requirement *supra*. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 24 is allowable over Takeuchi, and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Independent claim 25 has been amended to recite "removing the toner remaining on a toner supplying roller with a cleaning roller."

It is respectfully submitted that Takeuchi illustrates a cleaning member 14 that removes toner T from a supply roller 8. However, Takeuchi does not teach the use of any type of roller to remove toner from the supply roller 8. Accordingly, the cleaning member 14 illustrated in Takeuchi cannot perform "removing the toner remaining on a toner supplying roller with a cleaning roller," as presently recited in independent claim 25 of Applicant's invention. Since Takeuchi does not teach every element as recited in independent claim 25, Takeuchi can not be properly used to reject claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. See anticipation requirement *supra*. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 25 is allowable over Takeuchi, and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

There being not other objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in a condition of allowance, and an early action to this effect is courteously solicited.

No Fee has been incurred by this Amendment. However, if any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our deposit account number 502827.

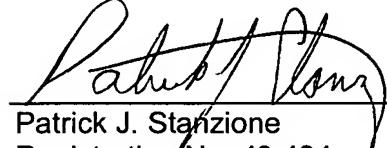
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Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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